

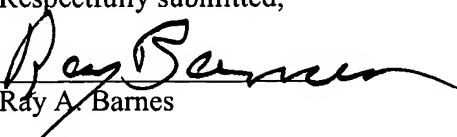
Remarks/Arguments

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,605,380. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested since the reference does not disclose applicant's invention as presently claimed.

The '380 reference does not disclose a unitary structure as is the presently claimed invention. Further the reference always requires an auxiliary or additional belt buckle in order to function. The Examiner is incorrect in stating that a clip is integrally connected to the base and defining a strap holding area between the clip and base. The reference clearly states that item 36 is the auxiliary belt buckle, not a clip. As set forth in applicant's claims, the clip is non-releasably connected to the base. This clearly is not shown in reference '380.

In view of the above amendments and remarks reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of applicants claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


Ray A. Barnes